

OCTOBER BIRDS OF WALL LAKE, SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY ADRIAN LARSON.

The following notes are from observations made from October 12 to 23 inclusive at Wall Lake and the surrounding country for a radius of about two miles.

Wall Lake, which lies about twelve miles west of Sioux Falls, is somewhat triangular in shape, being nearly a mile long and about three-quarters of a mile wide. Its greatest depth is about fourteen feet. It is fed by springs, but were it not for the heavy snow and spring rains for the last few years the lake would be much smaller.

The shore line is marked mostly by small boulders, except for a long stretch of sandy beach at the south end.

The banks of the lake are covered with a small growth of such timber as the willow, cottonwood, ash, box-elder and soft maple, with a plum or choke-cherry thicket, interspersed with locust, gooseberry and other bushes, scattered here and there.

The margins of the lake, mostly on the east, but also a little on the south and west sides, are covered with rushes which extend out about a hundred feet from shore, and scattered throughout the lake are the various fresh water aquatic plants.

There is an abundance of small fish, frogs, and water newts in the lake, which make it a great resort for the fish-eating waterfowl.

To the south, west, and north of the lake are scattered the innumerable sloughs which vary in depth from about dried up to six or more feet deep; these sloughs are covered more or less with wild rice, and other water grasses.

The weather for the first four days was mostly clear, with the wind from the south; the 17th and 18th, were cloudy days, with the wind from the north; on the 19th the wind changed to southeast which brought a small shower; on the 20th it was cloudy with a light southerly wind; on the 21st the wind changed around to north and the air became cooler and the sky cloudier and continued this way until the 23rd, when it brought on a fine snow which soon changed to rain.

On the 22nd, huge flocks of gulls, ducks, and geese were seen flying south, which they kept up with increasing numbers on the 23rd.

1. Horned Grebe.—Not nearly so common as the Pied-billed.
2. Pied-billed Grebe.—Very common on the lake.
3. Loon.—First seen on the 18th; saw several every day afterwards.
4. Franklin Gull.—Abundant; seen every day.
5. Double-crested Cormorant.—First seen the 14th; also on the 16th, 18th and 20th in pairs.
6. Hooded Merganser.—Saw four the 16th; two the 18th.
7. Mallard.—Abundant, both on the lake and about the sloughs.
8. Baldpate.—Common.
9. Green-winged Teal.—Abundant.
10. Blue-winged Teal.—Not quite as common as the Green-wing.
11. Spoonbill.—Abundant.
12. Pintail.—Abundant.
13. Redhead.—Not common.
14. Canvas-back.—Only a few seen.
15. Scaup Duck.—Not common.
16. Lesser Scaup.—Not common.
17. Ring-necked Duck.—Fairly common; judging from what was shot the Ring-neck was the commonest of the Bluebills.
18. Golden-eye.—Fairly common on the lake the first few days.
19. Ruddy Duck.—Common on the lake; these little ducks are as expert at diving and sinking in water as are the Grebes.
20. Snow Goose.—Many flocks, the 22d and 23d.
21. White-fronted Goose.—Many flocks.
22. Canada Goose.—Several flocks.
23. Am. Bittern.—Abundant, especially around the sloughs.
24. Great Blue Heron.—One was seen on the east side of the lake on the 20th.
25. Sandhill Crane.—Several flocks.
26. Coot.—Very common. Here they are called mud-hens.
27. Wilson Phalarope.—Seen every day up to the 14th.
28. Wilson Snipe.—Common, especially about the sloughs.
29. Pectoral Sandpiper.—Common till the 14th; seen only about the sloughs.
30. Spotted Sandpiper.—Two seen on the 12th and one on the 13th.
31. Killdeer.—Common.
32. Bob-white.—Large flock seen in a corn field on east side of the lake.
33. Prairie Hen.—Fairly common in corn fields.
34. Mourning Dove.—Several were seen on the 13th.

35. Marsh Hawk.—Common.
36. Screech Owl.—Heard only one night.
37. Northern Flicker.—Fairly common for the first few days.
38. Prairie Horned Lark.—Common.
39. Crow.—Not very common.
40. Red-winged Blackbird.—Abundant.
41. Meadowlark.—Common.
42. Rusty Blackbird.—Abundant.
43. Bronzed Grackle.—Common.
44. Am. Goldfinch.—Not common.
45. Lapland Longspur.—Flock of nine on the 23d.
46. Tree Sparrow.—Abundant.



CARROLL ISLET, WASHINGTON.

Our landing place. The hole thru the island shows here as the dark spot to the right of the white patch of water. The profile slope was our trail to the top and camp. Our cache shows just below the notch.

47. Junco.—Common.
48. Song Sparrow.—Common.
49. Fox Sparrow.—Abundant.
50. Barn Swallow.—One seen on the 12th; another on the 13th.
51. White-rumped Shrike.—One seen on the 21st.
52. Myrtle Warbler.—Seen several times.
53. Am. Pipit.—Common.
54. Robin.—Not very common.